



Friday 7th February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week saw our Year 11 students begin their final set of mock examinations before their real GCSEs in May. We have been delighted with the attitude and effort made by the vast majority of our students in these to date. They have approached the exams with determination and resilience and I sincerely hope we see their effort shown in their grades once all the papers have been marked by their teachers. The mocks continue into next week as well, so it's important that our students continue with their revision.

We are offering a range of support with revision from AM boost sessions to after school revision classes and we will be opening over the February half term holiday for English and Maths master classes. Further details will follow regarding this.

### **Tackling Internal Truancy**

At Da Vinci, we are committed to ensuring that every student receives the best possible education. While most parents and carers are familiar with traditional truancy—where a pupil is absent from school without permission - internal truancy is a growing national concern across schools that also impacts learning. Our new system to tackle internal truancy this week has been a huge success, and we have seen this halved in the first week alone.

Internal truancy occurs when a pupil is present in school but deliberately avoids attending lessons. This might involve:

- Hiding in toilets or other areas of the school
- Wandering corridors instead of going to class
- Spending extended time in the medical room or other non-classroom spaces without genuine need or permission.

Pupils may do this for various reasons, including anxiety about certain lessons, disengagement with the curriculum, or peer influence.

Internal truancy has a significant negative impact on a child's education, just as much as being absent from school entirely. Missing lessons means missing key content, leading to knowledge gaps that can make it harder for students to keep up. This can impact their confidence, performance in assessments and exams, and overall progress. In addition, avoiding certain subjects or teachers can become a habit, making it even harder for students to re-engage with their learning.

What Can Parents and Carers Do?

1. Talk to your child – if you notice a drop in progress or reluctance to discuss their school day, ask them about their lessons and any challenges they may be facing.



2. Monitor attendance and behaviour reports – use our Class Charts app as any patterns of missed classes may indicate internal truancy.
3. Work with the school – if you're concerned, please contact us. We can offer support through pastoral care, mentoring, or learning interventions to help re-engage students.

By working together, we can help to ensure that all pupils make the most of their education and feel supported in their learning. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's Achievement Leader.

### **Year 9 Option Choices**

A reminder to all of our Year 9 parents and students that Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February is the deadline for handing in your completed option form to Mr Gregory. Next week, Mr Gregory will begin to process your choices and build the four option blocks around student choices to try and secure the top four choices for as many students as possible.

### **Sparx Maths**

We have been working hard to increase student engagement with the Sparx Maths platform and some parents/carers may have received an email this week regarding this if your child has not logged on or is not regularly engaging in their weekly homework. Sparx Maths is an incredible online tool that uses AI to provide your child with personalised questions (including times tables), instant feedback and short videos to model the mathematical process required. Regular practice using Sparx will increase your child's GCSE performance by at least one grade. Please can I kindly ask that you speak with your child to ensure they are regularly completing their weekly Maths homework.

I would like to remind you that the academy will break up for half term at 3.05pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February and will re-open on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 8.05am.

As always, I am available to meet with parents/carers on a Thursday evening at 4.30pm should you wish to book an appointment to see me. Mrs Graham holds my diary so please contact her on [emma.graham@davinciacademy.co.uk](mailto:emma.graham@davinciacademy.co.uk) to make a booking.

Thank you for your on-going support in the education of your child(ren).

Yours faithfully,



# Da Vinci Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

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Miss Jayne Scattergood  
Headteacher

## Key Dates

Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 11 mock examinations finish
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 3.05pm	Students break up for half term
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 11 Parents' Evening 2 (4-7pm)
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Year 8 Parents' Evening

